

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (previously cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of treating disturbances in iron metabolism in a patient undergoing haemodialysis or treatment for anemia, which comprises administering to such patient:

(a) an erythropoietin preparation that provides active erythropoietin in an amount ~~of from 250 U to 15,000 U~~ of from about 250 U to less than about 2,000 U, and

(b) an iron preparation that comprises a physiologically compatible iron salt or iron complex compound that provides from 1 mg to 30 mg of iron ions;

the administration occurring during both the correction phase and the maintenance phase of the treatment without changing the amount of the erythropoietin preparation ~~and~~ or the iron preparation being administered, ~~with~~ wherein the weekly amount of the erythropoietin preparation ~~providing~~ provides from 7,000 U to 15,000 U of active erythropoietin and the weekly amount of the iron preparation ~~providing~~ provides from 5 mg to 30 mg of iron ions.

16. (Previously added) The method of claim 15, wherein the both the erythropoietin preparation and the iron preparation are administered from one to five times per week.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 15, wherein the erythropoietin preparation provides ~~more than~~ from about 500 U to less than about 2,000 U of active erythropoietin ~~and up to 2,000 U of active erythropoietin.~~

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the erythropoietin preparation provides ~~more than~~ from about 1,000 U to less than about 2,000 U of active erythropoietin ~~and less than 3,000 U of active erythropoietin.~~

21. (Previously added) The method of claim 15, wherein the iron preparation provides between 5 mg and 20 mg of iron ions.

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22. (Previously added) The method of claim 15, wherein the iron salt or the iron complex is selected from the group consisting of iron(II)sulfate, iron(II)fumarate, iron(III)citrate, iron(II)gluconate, iron(II)succinate, iron(II)chloride, iron(II)glycine-sulfate complex, iron(II)aspartate, sodium-iron(III)gluconate complex, iron(III)-hydroxide-polymaltose complex, and ferrisorbitol citrate complex.

23. (Previously added) The method of claim 15, wherein the iron preparation comprises an iron complex.

24. (Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein the iron complex is a Fe(III) complex.

25. (Previously added) The method of claim 24, wherein the Fe(III) complex has a molecular weight of 30,000-100,000 D.

26. (Previously added) The method of claim 25, wherein the Fe(III) complex is a Fe(III)-saccharate.

27. (Previously added) The method of claim 25, wherein the Fe(III) complex is a Fe(III)gluconate.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the Fe(III)gluconate is present in an amount of about 5 mg and the erythropoietin preparation provides about 1500 U of active erythropoietin, the administration of both the iron and the erythropoietin occurring from one to five times per week.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the administration of both the iron and erythropoietin occurs five times per week.
